

To: andrew_lingenfelter@heller.senate.gov[andrew_lingenfelter@heller.senate.gov]; Ashley Jonkey (ashley_jonkey@heller.senate.gov)[ashley_jonkey@heller.senate.gov]; jack_finn@heller.senate.gov[jack_finn@heller.senate.gov]; (jeremy_harrell@heller.senate.gov)[jeremy_harrell@heller.senate.gov]; Sarah Paul (sarah_paul@heller.senate.gov)[sarah_paul@heller.senate.gov]; Stephen Sifuentes (Stephen_sifuentes@heller.senate.gov)[Stephen_sifuentes@heller.senate.gov]; alexander_mcdonough@reid.senate.gov[alexander_mcdonough@reid.senate.gov]; jason_unger@reid.senate.gov[jason_unger@reid.senate.gov]; kristen_orthman@reid.senate.gov[kristen_orthman@reid.senate.gov]; lucas_ingvoldstad@reid.senate.gov[lucas_ingvoldstad@reid.senate.gov]; mary_conelly@reid.senate.gov[mary_conelly@reid.senate.gov]; ryan_mulvenon@reid.senate.gov[ryan_mulvenon@reid.senate.gov]; sara_moffat@reid.senate.gov[sara_moffat@reid.senate.gov]; Shannon Raborn (shannon_raborn@reid.senate.gov)[shannon_raborn@reid.senate.gov]; yolanda_garcia-banuelos@reid.senate.gov[yolanda_garcia-banuelos@reid.senate.gov]; Ben Rosenbaum (ben.rosenbaum@mail.house.gov)[ben.rosenbaum@mail.house.gov]; Elizabeth Decker (elizabeth.decker@mail.house.gov)[elizabeth.decker@mail.house.gov]; mike.naft@mail.house.gov[mike.naft@mail.house.gov]; Arturo Garzon (arturo.garzon@mail.house.gov)[arturo.garzon@mail.house.gov]; bruce.miller@mail.house.gov[bruce.miller@mail.house.gov]; jason.riederer@mail.house.gov[jason.riederer@mail.house.gov]; Martin Paris (martin.paris@mail.house.gov)[martin.paris@mail.house.gov]; stacy.parobek@mail.house.gov[stacy.parobek@mail.house.gov]; keith.hughes@mail.house.gov[keith.hughes@mail.house.gov]; Scott Hughes (scott.hughes@mail.house.gov)[scott.hughes@mail.house.gov]; Kent Alexander (Kent.Alexander@mail.house.gov)[Kent.Alexander@mail.house.gov]; Kyle Lykins (kyle.lykins@mail.house.gov)[kyle.lykins@mail.house.gov]; Larry Farnsworth (larry.farnsworth@mail.house.gov)[larry.farnsworth@mail.house.gov]; Robert Yavor (robert.yavor@mail.house.gov)[robert.yavor@mail.house.gov]; Sonia Joya (sonia.joya@mail.house.gov)[sonia.joya@mail.house.gov]
Cc: PerezSullivan, Margot[PerezSullivan.Margot@epa.gov]; Amato, Paul[Amato.Paul@epa.gov]; Keener, Bill[Keener.Bill@epa.gov]; Ebbert, Laura[Ebbert.Laura@epa.gov]; Louis, Gail[Louis.Gail@epa.gov]; Vanegas, Loretta[Vanegas.Loretta@epa.gov]; Scott, Jeff[Scott.Jeff@epa.gov]; COYLE, BRIDGET[Coyle.Bridget@epa.gov]; Kaiser, Sven-Erik[Kaiser.Sven-Erik@epa.gov]; Stollman, Scott[Stollman.Scott@epa.gov]
From: Maier, Brent
Sent: Tue 10/25/2016 6:59:04 PM
Subject: U.S. EPA Press Release: EPA announces \$5.6 Million for Environmental Improvements on Tribal Lands in Nevada

Dear Colleagues:

The following press release is being issued today by the EPA Region IX press office. If you have questions or need any additional information, please give me a call.

Regards,

Brent Maier
Congressional Liaison
Telephone: 415.947.4256



For Immediate Release: October 25, 2016

Media Contact: Margot Perez-Sullivan, 415-947-4149, perezsullivan.margot@epa.gov

EPA announces \$5.6 Million for Environmental Improvements on Tribal Lands in Nevada

SAN FRANCISCO – Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced \$5.6 million in funding for Nevada tribes to support environmental programs, drinking water and wastewater infrastructure and community education. The announcement was made at the 24th Annual Regional Tribal Conference in San Francisco.

“Tribes continue to make great strides in environmental protection and improving public health,” said Alexis Strauss, EPA’s Acting Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest. “This year, EPA is supporting water quality projects and water infrastructure for Nevada tribes with over \$1.8 million in funding.”

Approximately \$1.7 million was awarded directly to Nevada tribes to support a wide variety projects including monitoring, watershed protection and restoration, water and energy efficiency, wastewater reclamation, and treatment systems. Another \$107,000 will go to the Indian Health Service to support tribal drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, plant operator training and technical assistance.

Nevada tribes will use an additional \$3.8 million to continue tribal environmental programs, clean up open dumps and contaminated lands, develop programs to monitor, protect, and improve air quality, and conduct targeted community outreach and community education.

Among the results of EPA funding:

- The Walker River Paiute Tribe completed an irrigation project that improves water quality by addressing irrigation return flows that contribute sediment, nutrients and

pathogens into the Walker River. The Tribe repaired the eroding ditch by stabilizing 985 feet of bank, installing 5 rock structures across the ditch, and revegetating the bank with native seeds and willow pole plantings. The return flow serves approximately 1,000 acres of alfalfa field on the west side of Walker River.

- The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe's Natural Resources Department conducted an Environmental Youth Camp to encourage youth to live off the land and learn about environmental problems and impacts, traditional resources, and cultural ways of protecting their lands. They also hired four environmental interns in STEM programs from local universities to help in the department and with the camp activities.

These funds are critical in building the capacity of tribes to carry out environmental work. As most tribes in the Pacific Southwest have small governments, one goal of the funding is to assist tribes in developing the ability to establish and sustain environmental protection programs and make informed decisions to protect public health and environmental quality. The funds are also used to develop environmental and public health ordinances.

The EPA's Pacific Southwest Region is home to 148 tribal nations.

For more information please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/region9/tribal>

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Brent Maier

Congressional Liaison

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX

75 Hawthorne St. (OPA-3)

San Francisco, CA 94105

Ph: 415.947.4256